

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SAB-02 L-01 DHA-02 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 PRS-01 IO-06 PM-03

DODE-00 EUR-08 H-01 /057 W

-----260950Z 113234 /22-12

R 252139Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1233

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2160

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH INTEREST IN PANAMA CANAL SOLUTION, HUMAN RIGHTS

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN PANAMA R.M. JOHN TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS MARCH 25 THAT HE WILL RECOMMEND HIS GOVERNMENT TAKE A SOMEWHAT MORE ACTIVE POSITION IN SUPPORT OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO PANAMA CANAL QUESTION. HE MADE CLEAR THAT BRITISH ROLE SHOULD IN HIS VIEW BE COORDINATED WITH USG. JOHN SAID HE WILL BE EXPRESSING HIS VIEWS ON MATTER TO WHITEHALL IN NEXT FEW DAYS. HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR PRIME MINISTER TO EXPRESS BRIEFLY BRITISH VIEWS ON THE ISSUE DURING HIS SCHEDULED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE "DOWNING ST. SUMMIT" IN EARLY MAY.

2. JOHN SAID HMG'S INTEREST IN THIS MATTER IS BASED ON UK'S STATUS AS MAJOR CANAL USER, AND IN IMPORTANCE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE ATTRIBUTES TO LONG-TERM VALUE OF PANAMA'S CERRO COLORADO COPPER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. LATTER DEVELOPMENT, SHOULD IT PAN OUT, JOHN SAID, WOULD ULTIMATELY OVERSHADOW CANAL'S ROLE IN PANAMA'S ECONOMY.
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JOHN ADDED THAT WHILE BRITAIN STOOD READY TO ASSIST U.S. ON THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, HE DOUBTED THERE WAS MUCH SHE COULD DO PRACTICALLY.

3. AMBASSADOR JOHN ALSO SAID THAT HIS EMBASSY--IN COORDINATION WITH THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND ITALIAN EMBASSIES IN PANAMA--WAS PREPARING A REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN

PANAMA FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. HE SAID THAT HIS OWN
REPORT WOULD COME TO A CONCLUSION SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE
USG TO CONGRESS: THAT IS, PANAMA HAS A FAIRLY GOOD
RECORD, AT LEAST IN COMPARISON WITH MOST OTHER LATIN
AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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